

COURSE OUTLINE

TEACHER: **Andy Marks**

YEAR 3A

TITLE: **The Art of Improvisation**

CONTENT:

- **Questionnaire & debate:** What is improvisation? Why are most people secretly afraid of it? What makes a good improviser? Can this be acquired? Revision of language used in debating.
When we improvise in daily life: Socialising, brainstorming, introducing yourself, small talk, cooking, specific situations, conflicts, emergencies (when the computer crashes or you lose your notes). Focus on functional language. Comprehension.
- **Analysis of the mechanics of improvising:** letting yourself fail, feeling the fear, getting rid of your 'social editor', bypassing 'writer's block', training your brain to think faster (rapping on the spot, narrating a previously unseen video clip, random role-plays) How to create and tell jokes. Grammar revision & vocabulary acquisition.
- **How the professionals do it:** Focus on the world's greatest improvisators (in jazz, theatre, improv comedy and beyond) Learning the tools for helping to break the ice and make conversation in various (sometimes awkward) social situations. Students learn techniques (humour, stream of consciousness, afterthoughts) and revisit/spice up a boring dialogue.
- **Improvisation in the business and professional world.** When we have to plan and do immediately. The process of thinking and acting spontaneously. Techniques for improving our creativity and allowing ourselves to let go completely. Thinking outside the box.
- **Improvising in job interviews, meetings and presentations.** Awareness. Taking risks. Dealing with what is/if. Practical sessions. Focus on functional language, vocabulary and pronunciation.
- **When engineers improvise:** Solving a problem with the tools and materials immediately at hand. (Using a knife as a screwdriver or as a tin opener etc) Discussion.
- **Improvisation is everywhere:** theatre, dance, jazz, humor, film and sculpture but also in scientific, physical, cognitive, academic, and non-academic disciplines; cooking, boxing, fashion (dressing up) painting. Discussion and comprehension.

LEARNING OUTCOMES:

At the end of the course, students will:

- Understand the concepts, techniques and philosophy involved in improvisation.
- Learn to become more creative and psychologically aware in specific and professional situations.
- Be able to express themselves more fluently and pronounce technical/general terms better.
- Recognise, understand and correct their own grammatical mistakes.
- Acquire more vocabulary in various academic and non-academic fields.
- Greatly improve their debating, discussion and presentation skills.
- Increase their level of comprehension via various audio and video clips.

ASSESSMENT:

- 50% participation in class
- 50% Continuous assessment – homework/presentation